CTBT

3260. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has become irrelevant as far as India is concerned;

(b) if so, whether India was under compulsion any more to comply with the terms of CTBT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Article XIV of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) requires that for the Treaty to Enter into Force it is necessary that all the 44 States listed in the Annex II of the Treaty sign and retify it. India is included in this list. India has stated that it will not stand in the way of the Entry into Force of the Treaty. India is already in *de facto* observance of the spirit of the Treaty by maintaining the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

Amendment of Labour Laws

3261. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move has been resisted by Trade Unions; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) With a view to making labour markets flexible, a "Discussion Paper" has been circulated among various stakeholders for eliciting their views. These, *inter-alia*, include:

(i) amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by placing certain activities in a separate schedule so that provisions of Section 10 may not apply to them, and by replacing the term "emergency" with the term "public interest" in Section 31 of the Act; and